

## RICH WOMAN A SHOPLIFTER

"Mrs. Hart-Curry" Declares  
Morphine Made Her a  
Kleptomaniac.

HUSBAND IS WEALTHY.

Brooklyn Department Store Owners  
Refuse to Prosecute Strange  
Prisoner in Court.

In a Brooklyn department store, a well-dressed woman who later gave her name as Mrs. Hart-Curry, was arrested yesterday afternoon for shoplifting. She wore diamonds worth \$1,500, and at the police station made a show of money in an endeavor to suppress news of the arrest.

To-day when the case was called in the Adams Street Court, attorneys appeared for the woman, and at the request of the owners of the store, the case was dismissed by Magistrate Dooley. There were many quiet talks in the corner, and much whispering between the lawyers and detectives before this was done.

Store detectives who made the arrest explained the release of the woman by saying that she was really a victim of drugs, consequently a kleptomaniac and not responsible for her acts.

The woman is reported to have said to the detectives:

"All the articles you have charged me with stealing are worth but a trifle. I will gladly pay for them. My husband is wealthy. We live at Baldwin, Westchester County, where I have any number of friends.

"My arrest on such a charge means my social ruin. It will disgrace my husband, who is a business man, and gives me all the money I ask for. I entreat you not to press the case.

"I cannot explain why I took these things. I can only say I did not know what I was doing.

"I was ill and a doctor prescribed morphine. I got into the habit of taking the drug. This morning before I came to this store I took morphine. I am under the spell of the drug now. I did not realize that I was wrongfully taking anything."

In the court were friends of the accused woman. They were also well-dressed and people of means, but declined to give their names.

One of these friends said:

"She tells the truth. She did not know what she did. It would break her husband's heart if he knew she had been arrested."

Another of these friends said the husband of the woman owns a chain of laundries in towns of Southern New York State. On the police blotter the name of the prisoner was entered Mrs. Alice Hart-Curry. But the woman herself signed a release securing the storekeepers from prosecution for false arrest writing "Mrs. Hart-Curry."

Underneath she wrote "Mrs. Curry."

The woman was middle-aged, rather good looking and dressed neatly in rich but not flashy clothing.

According to the detectives, the arrest was not made until after two of them had watched the woman going from counter to counter for two hours, all the time sipping up things and sniffing them into a shopping bag.

When this bag was searched the following articles purloined in the store were found:

Four pocketbooks, two pairs of

buttons, two stick pins, one fancy

stone, one seal stamp, one blotter,

one knife, two rings, one nit comb,

four lady's ties, one veil, one ther-

mometer, one fancy bow, one package

hairpins.